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NOTES FROM NINE-FIFTEEN

SPRING 2008



Dear Friends:

I am very excited to introduce you to our inaugural State and Consumer Services Agency Newsletter. *Notes from Nine-Fifteen* will be published quarterly and will serve as a great way to share agency news and exciting events taking place in our many departments, boards and commissions. I want each of you to know that your work for this agency is valued and that we are all part of a larger purpose: to make our state government as efficient, accessible and helpful as possible for all Californians. I hope SCSA's *Notes from Nine-Fifteen* will be one more way to share your accomplishments, best practices and fun times with one another.

Notes from Nine-Fifteen is a work in progress and its success is dependent upon you, our fantastic agency family. If you would like to share an upcoming event, introduce a new employee or have any suggestions about the newsletter content, please contact our agency communications staff by phone or drop in and see us at 915 Capitol Mall.

Now that the flowers are blooming and tax season is almost over, I hope you all are able to enjoy our state's beautiful resources. It's time to soak up the famous California sun and explore our beautiful state. I wish you and your families a lovely Spring.

Rosario Marin, Secretary

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION MONTH

Governor Schwarzenegger recognized the need for California homeowners to get some relief from the housing crisis and directed an interdepartmental task force to address the rising foreclosure rates. Hundreds of thousands of Californians face the threat of foreclosure and your very own agency colleagues have been hard at work getting the word out that the state is offering help.

Since January, our agency has partnered with the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency to launch the 90 Days of Hope Campaign. Taking the term "interdepartmental" literally, we heavily recruited some of the top talent in the administration.

Thanks to the fantastic work of the Public Affairs team at the Department of Water

Resources, the vocal talents of Jay Allan from the Department of Homeland Security and Luis Farias from the Department of Consumer Affairs, the campaign launched Public Service Announcements and Print Ads featuring real California families that are now being distributed throughout the state.

To date, twelve town halls have taken place, connecting thousands of at-risk homeowners with HUD-certified mortgage counselors and loan services to help them avoid foreclosure.

Even in these tough budget times, state government is still finding ways to help hard-working Californians. Tell a friend or neighbor about the Hope Hotline (888) 995-HOPE, you may help someone keep their home.



SPONSORED BY GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER'S
TASK FORCE ON NON-TRADITIONAL MORTGAGES

1-888-995-HOPE

SPOTLIGHT ON... BILL BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

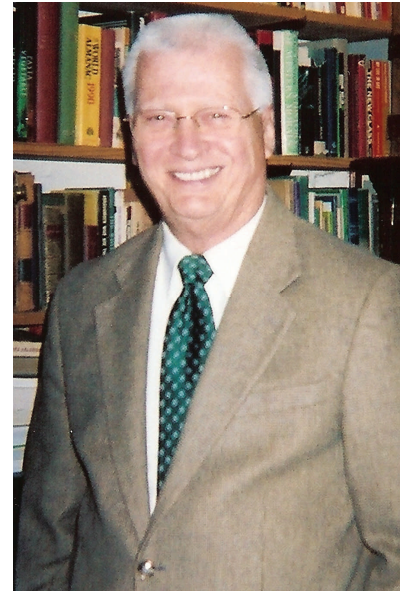
Q: What is your favorite weekend activity?

A: Beautifying my family's 10-acre place in Loomis, adding to its wild, rustic, park-like setting. And working on the massive book project that I'm dying to complete after retirement. It has consumed 20 years of research. It's a true story that follows one real-life family for almost 100 years from the end of the American Revolution to the end of the Civil War through some of the momentous events in American history. It would make a great movie.

Q: What has been one of your most fulfilling moments as a public servant?

A: The most fulfilling moment in my 11 years of public service was acting as the DMV spokesman when Governor Schwarzenegger, on his first day in office, slashed the car tax by two-thirds. It may still be controversial in some quarters. But I told news reporters and TV cameras at the time that, in my 40 years of covering the capitol as a reporter and working on the inside as a state information officer, I had never seen state government make such a "neck-snapping" turnaround. I never dreamed it could move that fast. Some of the experts had predicted it would take a couple of months to reprogram the computers and turn the ocean liner around. Instead, the Governor got it done in about a week. It proved that, when the chips are really down, state government can actually move with the speed of light.

Each issue of Notes from Nine-Fifteen will spotlight a different member of our Agency family to expose the great personalities that reside within SCSA by asking their answers to some quirky and revealing questions.



DGS staff and other attendees at the luncheon.

CAPITOL PARK GOES GREEN

The Department of General Services recently hosted California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary AG Kawamura at their Capitol Park facility for a lunch of pizza and talk of keeping invasive species out of Capitol Park in an environmentally friendly way. The program DGS officials and Secretary Kawamura have dubbed "Intergraded Pest Management" includes creative and environmentally friendly ways to keep trees and plants healthy and pest free without the use of environmentally hazardous chemicals. The innovative plans have been posted on the California Best Practices Web site and will be duplicated around the US by other facilities managers.

Left to Right: Fred Cordano, Branch Chief for Building and Property Management Branch; Maria Flores from Building and Property Management Branch; Doug Button, Deputy Director of General Services; Will Bush, Director of General Services; A.G. Kawamura Secretary of Food and Agriculture; Michael Saragosa, Undersecretary for SCSA; Scott Harvey, Deputy Secretary for SCSA; and Will Semmes, Chief Deputy Director for General Services.



LENDING A HELPING PAW

While monitoring local newscasts recently, SCSA Communications Director Amanda Fulkerson and Assistant Secretary for External Affairs Nicole Madani came upon a report of local animal shelter that had been burglarized. They contacted the station and learned the shelter was the non-profit Animal Friends Connection in Lodi. A little research taught the duo that Animal Friends Connection is a small no-kill shelter that works on a tiny budget and big hearts. This shelter for homeless dogs and cats in Lodi was hit hard by the burglary and while no animals were harmed the small amount of money they had on-site was taken and their facilities suffered extensive damage.

Amanda and Nicole sprung into action alerting the SCSA family including the departments, boards and bureaus. That very week the SCSA team was scheduled to pass through Lodi on their way to a town hall in Stockton. They knew this would serve as the perfect opportunity to play Santa and deliver goodies to the many animals in need. The response was overwhelming. Over the next two days word spread and staffers from SCSA, DGS, DTS and even the Governor's Office, Department of Water Resources and Department of Food and Agriculture turned Amanda's office into a haven of pet food, toys, litter, blankets and beds.

The delivery was a success and the friendly volunteer staff at Animal Friends Network were overwhelmed with gratitude. The board of directors

later sent a letter about the delivery. "It is wonderful that there are caring and compassionate people reaching out to help our animal friends in this time of need" wrote the board. "Thank you for the help and generous donations."

After the goodie drop-off Amanda and Nicole hit the road to continue on to the Stockton town hall. All in a days work for the animal lovers at SCSA, our caring departments and other administration friends. For more information on Animal Friends Connection or to browse the photo gallery of pets up for adoption, please visit www.animalfriendsconnect.org.



L to R: Amanda Fulkerson, Nicole Madani and animal friends.

AGENCY'S FINEST... JEANNINE BAKULICH



In an effort to connect one another to the outstanding individuals you may only know through email in our agency, each Notes from Nine-Fifteen will feature a member of our SCSA family.

Meet Jeannine Bakulich. With more than twenty years of public service under her belt, she's one of Agency's pride and joy employees. She has been an important asset to Secretary Marin for the past two years, while also maintaining her status as "favorite Grandma" to her two grandchildren. No task is too large for Jeannine, be it getting up at 5a.m. to take care of her grandkids while their parents stand in line for premium Kindergarten spots, or prepping Secretary Marin for a distinguished speaking engagement. Jeannine is always on the ball...and always sneaking the rest of us chocolate. We here at Agency are convinced that her preference for Sees' soft-centers is actually the source of her super power. If you're dropping by 915 any time soon, make sure you stop and say "hi" to Jeannine.

SCSA RECOGNIZES VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

National Victims' Rights Week is observed from April 13th-19th and your department counterparts are hard at work in getting the word out that justice for crime victims means justice for all.

On April 16, SCSA's own Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board is leading a March on the Capitol in observance of National Victims' Rights Week. Since 1965 the Board has awarded more than \$1.7 billion to help victims of violent crimes piece their lives back together. Contrary to public perception, victim compensation is not taxpayer funded. Crime victims are compensated through funds that have been collected from state and federal criminals who have paid court-ordered restitution. The Governor has declared April 13-19th as Crime Victims' Rights Week, and there are many activities throughout California in which supporters can participate. The Office of Information Security and Privacy Protection is also taking part in National Victims' Rights Week by promoting the rights of identity theft victims and educating the public about the Fair Credit Reporting Act the state passed in 2003.

While National Victims' Rights Week only lasts seven days, there are many ways to continue to support crime victims throughout the year, and our state is committed to raising awareness. The California African American Museum is now running *Common Ground*, an exhibit that features contemporary art that calls attention to victims of violent crime in Mexican American and African American communities, and the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board conducts continual community outreach events all through the year.

Visit <http://www.victimcompensation.ca.gov/victims/victimsrightsweek.aspx> to find an event to attend and support.



Artist Elliott Pinkey's work, entitled "Stop Shooting." Currently on display at CAAM. To access the enlarged version, click on the attachments tab of this PDF.



Artist Timothy Washington's work, entitled "LA Gear." Currently being displayed at CAAM. To access the enlarged version, click on the attachments tab of this PDF.

ATTENTION!

Do you work with someone that you think should be spotlighted? Is there an ongoing project that you feel should receive recognition? For comments, suggestions, or questions, please contact Miranda Williams at: Miranda.Williams@scsa.ca.gov or (916) 653-4090.

